

**WILLARD MIGHT
HURT HIMSELF
IF HE BOXED**

Fans Not Overeager to Back
Newest White Hope With-
out Public Test.

He prattled glibly along to show how the others wouldn't fight Willard who

These heavyweights. Perhaps he might break one of his hands, or maybe he might punch him on the jaw, or in the pit of the stomach, or under the heart, or elsewhere, and topple him over, even as old Kid Goliath took the count long, long ago in that battle with Young David.

overlooked. The boxing fans are the ones who are going to pay their money to see the fight, and they are from Missouri. Of course, there may be those who will attend and

Now, Mr. Jones, what has Will done to warrant the confidence of the boxing enthusiasts in this community? Whom has he met since he started to box who is worthy of the mettle of Jack Johnson? Ask the boys in the fan club, and they will tell you with knockouts but the men who knocked out are for the most part totally unknown, and some few enjoy some slight local reputation. Victorio over men like "Soldier" Kearns and George Rodel are not calculated to add to the prestige of a high grade boxer. They will not be expected. In fact, the boys demanded.

According to the record books,

ard's last fight was against George Rodol at New Haven on December 2, 1913. Willard defeated the "Divine Venus" in nine rounds. Since then Willard has gone on growing bigger until he looks like a giant redwood tree. Likewise he has gone on learning the box in the gymnasium, and it is said that he has become quite proficient.

It has always been one of the watchwords of the boxing arena that a fighter must train himself for great deeds by actual fighting. The fanciest stuff picked up in the gymnasium

He knows his sparring partners perfectly—knows every move they are capable of making, how they start the move and when. He is prepared for anything they have.

But in the ring it is a different proposition. There the other man has a few tricks of his own, with an individual style of working them. There is the mental hazard that a single punch may result in a knockout, and that every move means something. Against him

Johnson will realize that he is facing the world's champion—the man who beat down Jim Jeffries. If all reports of men who have seen Johnson recently are true, the Galveston negro is fast and who is there who doubts the efficacy of his ring science? There is not an angle of the boxing game that Johnson does not know backwards. There is not a proposition which he has not worked out.

There is one side to the match, and how important a part it will play remains to be seen. Willard has every physical advantage. He is years younger than Johnson, some six inches taller, with a reach that is longer by almost a foot, and he is some twenty pounds heavier. His habits are more

Those who have builded their hope upon the youth of Willard may poss-

possibly have them dashed. As intimated in a previous paragraph, Willard has been shown to good advantage in all matches in the training quarters. The possible reason has been ascribed. To quote a racing simile Willard has done well against selling platers, but the pace set by a stake horse may dazzle him and leave him puffing and wondering.

**O'NEIL EXPLAINS
NEW CLUB RULE**

Frank S. O'Neill, chairman of the State Athletic Commission, said a few days ago that the rule laid down by the commission prohibiting an officer or stockholder of any club officiating or in any way interfering with the contestants has been misinterpreted by the public.

He made this statement when asked

Mr. O'Neil replied that the rule prevented such men from acting as seconds or otherwise in the clubs in which they were officers or stockholders. They were at liberty to do as they pleased.

"It is not my purpose to disturb the tranquility of Mr. O'Neil, but it is regu-ly suspected in some quarters that abuses have crept in. It is not unreasonable to believe that a manager of

"If these conditions exist, a good boss, however, willing or good, but whose manager is not 'in the circle,' would suffer. He could not get matches, neither could he demand anything but just a 'chance to show' for small purses. What better work could there

for a commission in which power
rested to keep boxing above suspicion
than to plunge in and wipe out the
abuses."